Fred Kuwornu is an award-winning activist and filmmaker. 18 Ius Soli deals with immigrants and citizenship in Italy. Students were able to watch the documentary and speak with the director. A timely conversation.

AN EVENING OF CINEMA

On Nov. 5th the Italian program hosted the projection of the documentary 18 Ius Soli (2012) by activist-producer-writer-director, Fred Kuwornu. This documentary examines multiculturalism in Italy and looks at questions of citizenship for the one million children of immigrants born and raised in Italy who are not (yet) citizens.

Fred was born and raised in Italy and is now based in Brooklyn, NY. His mother is an Italian Jew, and his father a Ghanaian surgeon who lived in Italy since the early 60's. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Mass Media, from the University of Bologna. As a teenager, he started his career as a DJ and Producer. Later, he moved to Rome where he began working as a TV show writer for RAI public television. After his experience, working with the production crew of Spike Lee’s Miracle at St. Anna, Fred decided to research the unknown story of the 92nd Infantry “Buffalo Soldiers” Division, discovering and documenting in another award winning documentary the journey taken by the real 92nd Infantry veterans, and the entire African American segregated combat unit, which fought in Europe during WW II.

Fred’s conversation with our students was a thought-provoking one.

-Enrico Cesaretti

18 Ius Soli

Fred Kuwornu

IMMAGINI DI 18 IUS SOLI

Fred Kuwornu
Dopo i recenti eventi a Parigi la questione dell’immigrazione è diventato molto discusso.

Sono profondamente a favore dell’immigrazione soprattutto perché credo che porti numerosi vantaggi economici e sociali.

In primo luogo, è innegabile che gli immigrati costituiscano una fascia lavoratrice fondamentale svolgendo lavori spesso considerati umili che però reggono la società. Secondo una ricerca del MIT a Boston, il 35% del settore agricolo si regge sul lavoro degli immigrati.

In secondo luogo, ci sono alcuni che dicono che l’immigrazione provoca la delinquenza. Ma infatti, ‘Il manuale di crimine pubblicato dal dipartimento di criminologia dell’università della Florida nel recente 2009, che è un rapporto sulla relazione tra crimine e immigrazione, ha trovato che negli Stati Uniti, ci sono tassi di criminalità più bassi tra gli immigrati rispetto agli altri gruppi. Quindi dato che gli Stati Uniti ha il maggior numero di immigranti del mondo, (14 milioni) non credo che si possa sostenere questa associazione tra criminalità e immigrazione.

In terzo luogo, ci sono persone che affermano che l’immigrazione può causare una cancellazione dell’identità nazionale, ma io non credo che questo sia problematico perché oggi nella nostra società moderna è più vantaggioso rendere completi i nostri paesi con le nuove lingue e culture per renderli un luogo più interessante e vario. Per di più, se un paese si sentisse così fortemente di mantenere l’identità nazionale lascerebbe organizzazioni nazionali e sovranazionali che incoraggiano l’immigrazione come l’Unione Europea. Ma non vogliono.

Finalmente, dal punto di vista sociale e culturale gli immigrati portano con loro in un paese la cultura, il cibo e una lingua. Basta pensare ad esempio al "Chicken Tika Massala" che è ormai un piatto nazionale del Regno Unito con 23 milioni di persone che mangiano curry ogni giorno. Senza l’immigrazione degli indiani non avremmo “curry” nell’Inghilterra o negli Stati Uniti.

Per concludere, ci sono molti persone che trattano di dare l’immigrazione una reputazione negativa, ma la realtà è che gli immigrati offrono servizi e culture che cercano di migliorare nostra società. Per questa ragione sono a favore di avere degli immigranti.

-Edward Monteiro de Barros, ITAL 2010

An interview from 18 Ius Soli
ZACHARY GOES GLOBAL

Zach Vogt got his sustainability on this fall in Italy at Expo Milano 2015, a Universal Exposition with the theme Nutrire il pianeta, Energia per la vita. Zach was one of two UVA Italian Studies majors (Callie Jacobs joined him) to be selected to work as world ambassadors for the international summer-fall event.

-Adrienne Ward

STEFANIA ENJOYS A BOUN VIAGGIO!

Italian Studies major Stefania Mazza spent last summer at UVA in Siena and must have felt the influence of Fellini, Comencini, and other famous Italian directors...inspiring her to make her own video of the experience. Click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_LhK08Zrns to see, hear and relish her incredible Sienese, Italian, and European adventures.

-Adrienne Ward

On October 16, the program in Italian Studies received a visit from one of our alumni. Christopher Banks, ’13 stopped by to say hello. Christopher was visiting Charlottesville that weekend for Homecoming.

Christopher currently works as a consultant for Deloitte Consulting LLP and also serves in the National Guard.

He reports that his Italian language skills have come in handy on more than one occasion in the business world.

Grazie per la visita, Cristoforo!

-The Editors
When *Italian minor Gabi Miano* enrolled in the Sienese Art and Architecture course this summer while studying abroad, little did she know it would lead to a paper good enough for publication! Look for her work in the next issue of *Oculus*, coming out this spring.

- Adrienne Ward

...AND NOW, IT’S TIME FOR US TO CHECK IN WITH OUR GOOD FRIENDS IN SIENA...

Professor Ward made a trip to central Italy in November to attend meetings at both study abroad programs we support: UVA in Florence, and UVA in Siena. Joined by Stacey Hansen, Senior Education Abroad Advisor in UVa’s International Studies Office, Ward spent three days with program directors and staff, as well as with affiliated college and university colleagues. The group discussed topics ranging from curriculum, internships, housing, program pricing, and enrollment.

In Florence, the ISI Florence Consortium of public universities gathered at the Palazzo Rucellai Nov. 8-10th for their annual meeting. Representatives of all member institutions were present: Arizona State University, University of Connecticut, Pennsylvania State University, University of Virginia, the University of Melbourne, and ISI. Over two days the group discussed varied components of the ISI study abroad program. Members also visited Palazzo Bargagli to see the extensive and beautiful renovations to classroom and study space, as well as the art and architecture studios; some visited student housing as well. The meeting was declared highly productive and highly enjoyable, even if it didn’t include a sighting of Pope Francesco, who was visiting Florence at the same time!

In Siena, a day was spent sitting in on new classes, meeting faculty, seeing the new program facilities, and visiting the homes of some of the wonderful homestay hosts. Of course, the best part of the trip was spending time with the UVa students currently participating on the programs. Seven students in Florence and two in Siena had “tanto da raccontare” to Stacey and Prof. Ward!

- Adrienne Ward
Interested in studying abroad in Italy? There are options for terms during the fall and spring semesters, as well as in the summer. UVA students typically choose between Florence and Siena, both historical cities located in the heart of Tuscany. For more information, please contact Prof.ssa Ward. -The editors
ARTS & LEISURE

On Nov. 12th, the Italian program also hosted a talk by Gian Giacomo Migone, Professor of History of Euro Atlantic Relations at the University of Torino in Italy. In his talk, he presented the recent English translation of his classic book The United States and Fascist Italy. The Rise of American Finance in Europe (Cambridge U.P. 2015).

Prof. Migone is also the author of Problemi di Storia nei Rapporti tra Italia e Stati Uniti (1971), Banchieri Americani e Mussolini (1979), and has written numerous essays concerning Euro-Atlantic relations before, during, and after the Cold War. He is a former member of the Italian Senate, where he served on the Foreign Relations Committee, the United Nations System Staff College Advisory Board, the Civilian Affairs Committee, and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, between 1992 and 2001. He is the founder and first editor of L’indice dei Libri del Mese, an Italian cultural monthly periodical.

-Enrico Cesaretti

DAYDREAMING IN CHARLOTTESVILLE…

A special event took place this year at the Virginia Film Festival in Charlottesville. On November 7, the Italian movie Daydreaming (“Sogni di Gloria”) was presented at the Vinegar Hill Theatre. What’s so special about it?

The movie was made by the collective John Snellinberg, formed by people living in Prato and Poggio a Caiano. Poggio a Caiano is the sister city of Charlottesville, thanks to the friendship between its citizen Filippo Mazzei and Thomas Jefferson: consequently, Albemarle choose to celebrate this relationship by creating a sisterhood between Charlottesville and the Italian city.

Daydreaming tells the stories of two men named Giulio. The first Giulio is an unemployed Catholic who is bitter and losing his faith. After he decides not to be baptized, his devout family finds out, is outraged, and devises a plot to guilt him into changing his mind. The second Giulio is constantly berated by his family for his irresponsibility, but this new friendship with Mauraino, an old card player, teaches him finally to make decisions about his future. Through their stories, so different yet so similar, we see a message of hope, shot through with that famous “Tuscan humour”.

-Stella Mattioli
Per il mio progetto di ricerca culturale, ho visto un film al “Virginia Film Festival” il 7 novembre. Questo film, *Daydreaming*, è di due giovani (sono entrambi chiamati Giulio). Combattono con le loro famiglie mentre crescono. Un uomo di nome Giulio ha deciso che non era religioso. Lui non credeva in Dio e ha voluto invertire il suo battesimo. La sua famiglia ha litigato con lui e l’ha convinto a mantenere la sua religione. Alla fine, Giulio ha deciso di non invertire il suo battesimo e di mantenere la sua religione. L’altro Giulio ha lasciato la sua famiglia per emigrare dalla Cina verso l’Italia. In Italia, ha imparato a giocare a carte. Alla fine, ha vinto il campionato di carte.

Questo film mi ha fatto pensare alla mia vita. Sono cresciuto in una famiglia cattolica. Tuttavia, adesso, la mia famiglia è molto religiosa, ma io non prego e io non vado in Chiesa. Questo film mi ha ricordato di quanto sia importante la religione per la mia famiglia. Questo film anche mi ha fatto pensare all’importanza della famiglia, e sono entusiasta di tornare a casa per rivedere la mia famiglia.


-Matteo D’Agati, ITAL 2010

*Sogni di Gloria, (Daydreaming) is worth seeing.*
La lingua italiana è diventata importante per me durante il mio ultimo anno di liceo. Ho fatto un viaggio con tre dei miei amici durante la nostra vacanza di primavera. Siamo stati a Firenze, ma abbiamo viaggiato per tutto il paese. Abbiamo visitato Roma, Venezia, le Cinque Terre, e poi anche Barcellona, Spagna. Mi sono innamorato con la città di Firenze e la cultura italiana dopo il mio viaggio. Quando mi è stata offerta la possibilità di fare una lingua straniera all’università, ho voluto studiare italiano a causa del mio viaggio. Voglio anche rivisitare l’Italia per essere in grado di avere una conversazione con gli italiani. Mi vedo vivendo in Italia nel mio futuro perché amo la città di Firenze così tanto. L’apprendimento della lingua è stato divertente, ma anche una lotta pure. E non è la lingua più facile da imparare, ma era qualcosa che volevo fare perché amo Firenze e la cultura italiana.

-London Perrantes, ITAL 2010

È stato un colpo di fulmine per London.

VORRESTI IMPARARE L’ITALIANO?

Have you fallen in love with Italy like London? If so, don’t despair: the Italian Studies program offers many ways for you to get your fill of all things Italian. This spring, consider signing up for a class, or attending one of our many events. From cooking competitions to movie nights, there will be something for everyone. Learn all about it below....

SPRING IS COMING!

BIG BLOGGING IN SIENA

Students in ITAL 1020 and 2020 will have a chance to study in Siena – virtually – through participation in the Siena Blog Project! A cultural learning enterprise that joins Italian language students in Italy with those here on-grounds, the SBP is a great opportunity to engage with Italian society, customs, and landmarks without leaving home. For students who will make their temporary home in Siena this spring, they’ll share their experiences and compare and contrast them with those of their peers in the US. More in the spring!

-Adrienne Ward
UNA QUESTIONE DI GUSTO: DELICIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR THE SPRING!

In the Italian Studies program at UVA, spring means deliciousness. So, in preparation for all of the exciting gastronomic activities that the second semester has to offer, we at La Vendemmia sat down for a chat with Francesca Calamita, one of our program’s two experts (the other being Prof. Cesaretti) in the fascinating field of Food Studies. Here is what we learned:

La vendemmia: Everyone is wondering if Dolcissimo will be one of the Spring 2016 events?

FC: Yes, of course, it is! Following the success of the first edition of Dolcissimo in 2015, this year the event will be sponsored by the Institute of World Languages which awarded a small grant to the Italian Studies Program. As the leader of this innovative project, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the IWL on behalf of all my colleagues. Dolcissimo will come in its original formula but with a lot of new surprises. As you know, the event brings together second language acquisition and food studies in a unique way, yet this year we will focus in particular on dessert recipes described in a novel by Clara Sereni, a prolific Italian woman writer, Casalinghitudine [Keeping House]. We will have more prizes, more food, more fun!

La vendemmia: How many students will be involved in Dolcissimo?

FC: Many! First of all, a selected number of ITAL2020 students, coordinated by myself and my colleague Dr Sarah Annunziato, will bake the desserts while only speaking in Italian, they will research the socio-cultural origins of the dishes and will decorate their aprons, Italian themed of course! They will also do translation work in class from English into Italian on Sereni’s recipes. A selected group of ITAL2020 students will work for the Vendemmia at the event and they will be responsible for writing articles and reports on Dolcissimo. ITAL1020 will also have the opportunity to get involved and film the event for their video project assignments.

La vendemmia: Are you planning to involve your WGS/ITTR 3559 students?

FC: Yes, they will be with us. They will study Clara Sereni’s Casalinghitudine in my new course “Foodscapes in women’s writing” and that night they will come to introduce the author and her writings to our audience. They will play an important part in Dolcissimo this year.

La vendemmia: Is Dolcissimo related to other events?

FC: Yes, it is a matter of taste! My colleague Dr Sarah Annunziato is organizing the Snack and Movie Series, a new wonderful Italian film festival based on food. Sarah, I think our readers would like to know more about it!

-The Editors with Francesca Calamita
INTRODUCING: THE SNACK AND A MOVIE ITALIAN FILM SERIES!

Dolcissimo is coming, and we all want to be ready for it! What better way to prepare than with a night of food and films!

After the success of this fall’s first installment of the Italian film series, “The Welcome to the O(rganized) C(rime) Film series,” the program in Italian Studies will host another round of movies.

“The Snack and a Movie Film Series” will feature six movies all about food. As its name implies, there won’t just be good movies, but there will also be some good snacks.

A professor from the Italian Studies program will introduce each movie and students will have a chance to discuss them afterwards.

So, mark your calendars now!

-Sarah Annunziato

Il 3 febbraio: *Big Night*, 1996
Dir. Campbell Scott & Stanley Tucci

Il 17 febbraio: *La grande abbuffata*, 1973
Dir. Marco Ferreri

Il 2 marzo: *Io sono l’amore*, 2009
Dir. Marco Guadagnino

Il 23 marzo: *Lezioni di cioccolato*, 2007
Dir. Claudio Cupellini

Il 6 Aprile: *Il pranzo di Ferragosto*
Dir. Gianni Di Gregorio

Il 20 aprile: *La solitudine dei numeri primi*, 2010
Dir. Saverio Costanzo
PROFESSOR NEWS!

We are delighted to announce that Dr Francesca Calamita's monograph on the representation of eating disorders in modern and contemporary Italian women's writing has just been published. *Linguaggi dell'esperienza femminile: disturbi alimentari, donne e scrittura dall'unità al miracolo economico* is now available in the gender and women's studies series “Soggetti Rivelati” by “Il Poligrafo” press (Padua). She will present her book here at UVA in February 2016 (February 10).

"Anorexia and bulimia are perceived by the feminist discourse as a paradoxical way to question the socio-cultural constrictions of women’s position in patriarchal culture. *Linguaggi dell'esperienza femminile* demonstrates that before feminist scholars identified the link between social context and eating disorders in the 1970-80s, Italian women writers portrayed female characters who used the language of food and the body as means of rebellion against patriarchal repression. Francesca Calamita decodes a controversial female experience and the language Italian women writers used to express it before it became officially acknowledged as a pathology that reflects women’s anxiety about their identity".

-The Editors

AND LET'S NOT FORGET...

Congratulations are in order for Deborah Parker, who has just been awarded a research fellowship from the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston to pursue research on an article about JFK’s use of Dante.

Here is a brief account of her project:

“The Complexity of Allusion: Dante, JFK and Neutrality.”

While Dante places the neutrals—pusillanimous souls who never took a side in life—in the vestibule of Hell, the area just inside the gate of Hell and Hell proper, Kennedy treats the sin of neutrality in much harsher terms. In various public statements he has proclaimed, “The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who in times of moral crisis preserve their neutrality.” While Dante may have been the first to treat neutrality as a damnable sin, it is Kennedy’s adaptation of this notion that has most influenced politicians and other public figures. Figures as diverse as Martin Luther King, Ronald Reagan and Dan Brown—even the site Goodreads—have all cited Kennedy’s condemnation of neutrality even as they attribute the comment to Dante.

Congratulations, Deborah!

-Joel Rini
REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR SPRING CLASSES!

**ELEMENTARY ITALIAN II:** A fun time is had by all in this continuation of first year Italian. You will learn basic grammar structures while developing a solid foundation in speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending basic Italian. *(Mattioli & Puiatti)*

- M-F, 9-9:50
- M-F, 10-10:50
- M-F, 11-11:50 (2 sections)
- M-F, 12-12:50
- M-F, 1-1:50

**INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN II:** The fun times just keep rolling in this second-year Italian language course. Students will hone their aural-oral, reading, and writing skills through exposure to authentic cultural materials and interactions with guests from Italy. *(Annunziato & Calamita)*

- MWF, 9-9:50
- MWF, 10-10:50
- MWF, 11-11:50 (2 sections)
- MWF, 12-12:50

**ADVANCED ITALIAN II:** Learn to speak and write like an Italian in this conversation and writing intensive course. *(Cesaretti)*

- MWF, 11-11:50

**NOVELLA (ITALIAN SHORT NARRATIVE):** Read and discuss short stories from the tip to the top of the boot-shaped land. Students of this course will learn all about the literary movements that inspired the stories as well as the authors who penned them. *(Cesaretti)*

- MWF, 12-12:50
EVE'S SINFUL BITE: FOODSCAPES IN WOMEN'S WRITING CULTURE AND SOCIETY: This course explores how Italian women writers have represented food in their works from the late nineteenth century to the present. Looking at how cooking and serving meals to others while denying themselves the pleasure of eating is depicted in women’s writing helps us to understand the role of food and food-related activities in women’s lives. (Calamita)

- MWF, 1-1:50

ACTING ITALIAN: BENIGNI, GOLDONI, AND FO: This highly popular course returns for another semester of masterful comedy. Learn all about the Italian theatrical tradition, and in particular how it so often uses comedy as a tool of social commentary. Students of this course will have the opportunity to not only study great works of theater, but also to perform them. (Ward)

- TTh, 11-12:15

DRAMA OF MARRIAGE: Why is marriage so dramatic? If you take this course you find out by studying the representation of marriage in literary works from all around Europe. (Ward)

- TTh, 2-3:15

Things to study this spring.
THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH, ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE OFFERS THREE KINDS OF SPECIALIZATION IN ITALIAN STUDIES: A MAJOR IN ITALIAN STUDIES LEADING TO THE B.A. OR B.A. WITH DISTINCTION; A MINOR IN ITALIAN STUDIES; AND A GRADUATE COURSE OF STUDIES LEADING TO THE M.A. IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

FOR INFORMATION ON BECOMING A MAJOR OR A MINOR IN ITALIAN STUDIES, PLEASE CONTACT PROFESSOR ENRICO CESARETTI (EFC4P@VIRGINIA.EDU).

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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CIAO!

Virginia is for lovers of Italian!